

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 8, 2008. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-5, 7-9, 11, 12 and 15-18 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Claims 6, 10, 13 and 14 have been canceled. The subject matter of amended claims 1 and 11 is supported in at least figures 2-4 and the related detailed description of the Applicant's original specification. Accordingly, no new matter is added to the present application. In light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicant requests reconsideration of the application and pending claims.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indicated allowability of claims 5, 7-9, 11, 12 and 15-18.

Applicant notes that the heading on page 8 of the Office Action, mailed February 8, 2008, indicates that claims 5, 7-9 and 11-18 are allowed. The heading disagrees with the Office Action Summary, which indicates that claims 13 and 14 are rejected. Applicant assumes that the heading on page 8 of the Office Action is in error and was meant to include Applicant's claims 5, 7-9, 11, 12 and 15-18.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 with method steps that include the subject matter of allowable claim 5. In addition, Applicant has canceled claims 13 and 14.

II. Response to 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections – Claims 1-4, 13 and 14

A. Statement of the Rejections

Claim 1 presently stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0235445A1 to Gomez (hereafter *Gomez*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,285,865 to Vorenkamp *et al.* (hereafter *Vorenkamp*) and in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,076,225 to Li *et al.* (hereafter *Li*).

Claims 2-4 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Gomez*, *Vorenkamp* and *Li* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,290,036 to Moulding *et al.* (hereafter *Moulding*).

Claim 13 presently stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,906,584 to Moffat *et al.* (hereafter *Moffat*) in view of *Gomez* and *Vorenkamp*.

Claim 14 presently stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Moffat*, *Gomez*, *Vorenkamp*, *Li* and *Moulding*.

B. Discussion of the Rejections

Applicant has canceled claims 13 and 14. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 13 and 14 are rendered moot.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 with the subject matter of allowable claim 5. Consequently, Applicant submits independent claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the proposed combination and respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Applicant's claims 2-4 depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits dependent claims 2-4 are allowable over the proposed combination and respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 2-4 also be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In summary, Applicant respectfully requests that all outstanding claim rejections be withdrawn. Applicant respectfully submits that presently pending claims 1-5, 7-9, 11, 12 and 15-18 are allowable and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any comment regarding the Applicant's response or believe that a teleconference would expedite prosecution of the pending claims, Applicant requests that the Examiner telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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